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April 10, 2018

Glenn J. Bukoski, P.E.
Vice President of Engineering Services
Michigan Infrastructure & Transportation Association
P.O. Box 1640
Okemos, MI 48805-1640

Re: 2018 Hartland Road Pathway Project

Dear Mr. Bukoski,

Hartland Township received your letter from the *Michigan Infrastructure & Transportation Association* stating concern over the bid process for the Hartland Road Pathway Project. Thank you for the follow up phone call on April 9 to confirm that we agree on the facts and that we disagree on the conclusions.

One line item on this project bid was for slope restoration, as a **unit price per square yard**. Preiss Companies submitted \$2,000 for this line, resulting in an overall bid of more than **\$8 million**. They later indicated that they intended this to be a **lump sum** for all slope restoration, not per square yard of work. Preiss contacted the Township regarding the error as well as the intentions of the bid. This action was not initiated by the Township, nor was it negotiated. The Township found that to be credible, and it was deemed to be a sincere error. Preiss was ultimately awarded the contract as both the lowest bidder *and* best contractor for this project.

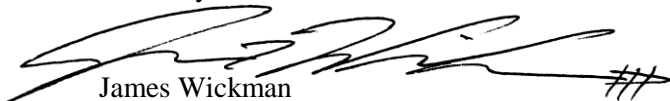
Section 2.10 of the Request for Proposals (RFP) clearly asserts the Township's privilege to make such corrections or award determinations, stating [emphasis added]:

*The Township reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to reject any/or all proposals, to **waive any irregularities and technical defects contained therein**, to award the contract in its entirety, in part or not at all and/or to determine which proposal is the **lowest and/or best** to enter into a Contract, as it may deem to be in the best interest of Hartland Township.*

Not only did the Township follow the stated RFP process, it also followed the dictates of common sense by allowing a correction of an obvious error by a company known locally for its professionalism and integrity. Your letter characterized Township actions as “manipulation”, “anticompetitive”, “unwarranted”, and “negotiation”. Your choice of words is both puzzling and disappointing.

Hartland Township will continue to analyze bids in a fair, unbiased manner. The Township is committed to transparency and accountability – and we value interaction with complainants that allows for explanation, clarification and objective resolution.

Sincerely,


James Wickman
Township Manager

cc: Board of Trustees

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